

U.S. Application Serial No.: 10/509,500; Entegris Docket No.: 200200006

REMARKS

Applicants' would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given to this case and the telephonic interview on August 9, 2006 with the Applicant's agent John Pillion. In complying with Applicant's responsibility to provide a complete written statement of the interview, 37 C.F.R. §1.133 (MPEP §713.04), the Applicant notes that claims 1 and 9 were discussed and that the Pall reference (U.S. Pat. No. 3,850,813) and Stankowski reference (U.S. Pat. Application Publication No.: 2001/0037969) were also discussed. The amendment and arguments presented in this paper constitute a submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c).

During the interview, the Applicants and the Examiner discussed the Pall reference and agreed that the features and structure of the flange on the endcap of the present invention were different from the groove described in the Pall reference. It was agreed that the expansion of the collar by the boss of the claimed invention defined over the references.

During the interview, Applicants proposed to amend claims 1 and 9 to include a boss with features that expands the collar of a bowl outward; the Examiner agreed to consider these changes and suggested that the preamble of claim 1 be changed.

In order to facilitate prosecution of the pending application, and without giving up the right to pursue all the claims as originally filed in one or more subsequent continuing applications, Applicant has canceled previously withdrawn claims 4-8 and claims 10-17. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-3 and 9 are pending and have been amended, new claims 18-21 have been submitted. No new matter has been added.

Corrections to the specification and abstract were made to correct obvious errors. An amendment to correct an obvious error does not constitute new matter where one skilled in the art would not only recognize the existence of error in the specification, but also the appropriate correction (MPEP § 2163.07(II)). In the second paragraph of page 7 applicant replaced the term "expend" with the correct term "expand". One skilled in the art would recognize this spelling mistake as an obvious error based on the use of the term "Expansion" in the third paragraph of page 7 and the term "contract" in the second paragraph of page 7. In the fifth paragraph of page 7, Applicant replaced the reference numeral 150 with the correct reference numeral 110; one skilled in the art would recognize the numbering mistake as an obvious error since the endcap in FIG. 11 is labeled with the reference numeral 110. Applicant corrected the abstract by replacing the reference numeral (160) with the correct reference numeral (16). One skilled in the art would

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recognize this numbering mistake as an obvious error based on the figure published on the first page of the application and previous reference to the filter cartridge by the numeral 16 in the same paragraph.

Applicant amended the second paragraph of page 7 to include the description "The bosses 106 and 108 illustrated in FIG. 10 are configured with an angled edge that causes the mating slots on the collar to expand outwardly when the key is rotated into position until the bosses fit into the open slots." Applicant's amended the fourth paragraph of page 7 to include the description "with grooves 112 and 114 respectively on a lower surface adjacent the filter medium of each of the flanges, the groove shaped to mate with an inner surface configuration of said collar attached to said bowl". Applicant amended the fifth paragraph of page 7 to include the description "with grooves 112 and 114 respectively on a lower surface adjacent the filter medium of each of the flanges, the groove shaped to mate with an inner surface configuration of said collar attached to said bowl." Figure 10 and Figure 11 were also amended with appropriate reference numerals and leader lines to these grooves.

Applicant maintains that this added description is not new matter since by disclosing in a patent application a device that inherently performs a function or has a property, operates according to a theory or has an advantage, a patent application necessarily discloses that function, theory or advantage, even though it says nothing explicit concerning it. The application may later be amended to recite the function, theory or advantage without introducing prohibited new matter. The missing descriptive matter, for example the grooves and angled edge of FIG. 10 and the grooves of FIG. 11, is necessarily present in the thing described in these figures and would be so recognized by persons of ordinary skill (MPEP § 2163.07(a)). Further, the text added to the description "flanges includes a groove on a lower surface of each of said flanges, said groove shaped to mater with the inner surface of said bowl" was part of claim 9 as filed in the original specification. This is part of the original disclosure and therefore, if an application as originally filed contains a claim disclosing material not disclosed in the remainder of the specification, the applicant may amend the specification to include the claimed subject matter (MPEP § 2163.06).

The subject matter of pending claim 9 is described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The subject matter of claim 9 is also described in the

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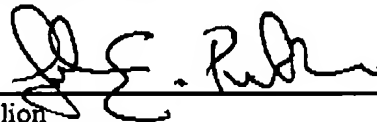
specification in such as way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 1-3 recite a boss configured to cause the slots on said collar of said bowl to expand outwardly when each said boss is rotated into position until the bosses fit into the slots of said collar. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3 are in condition for allowance. Support for the amendment to claim 1 is taken from page 4, last paragraph of the specification and page 7, second paragraph.

Each of the peripheral grooves suggested by Pall (col 3, lines 10-22) are formed for "reception of an O-ring" and the Pall's grooves purportedly provides a flashless sealing surface for the o-ring. The groove on the first end cap of instant claim 9 includes a groove shaped to mate with an inner surface configuration of the collar attached to the bowl. The Pall grooves do not mate with an inside surface configuration of a collar attached to a bowl. Stankowski does not disclose a groove. The combination does not include all the limitations and therefore Claim 9 is non-obvious. It is respectfully requested that claim 9 is in condition for allowance.

In view of the remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are in condition for final allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested. Although Applicant believes no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 501-908 for any fees that may be due in connection with this response. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding these remarks, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone conference with the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Dated: August 10, 2006

Attachments: Replacement Sheet FIG. 10
Annotated Sheet FIG. 10 showing changes
Replacement Sheet FIG. 11
Annotated Sheet FIG. 11 showing changes

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Amdt. FIG. 10, Dated August 10, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 10, 2006
Annotated Sheet to Show Changes

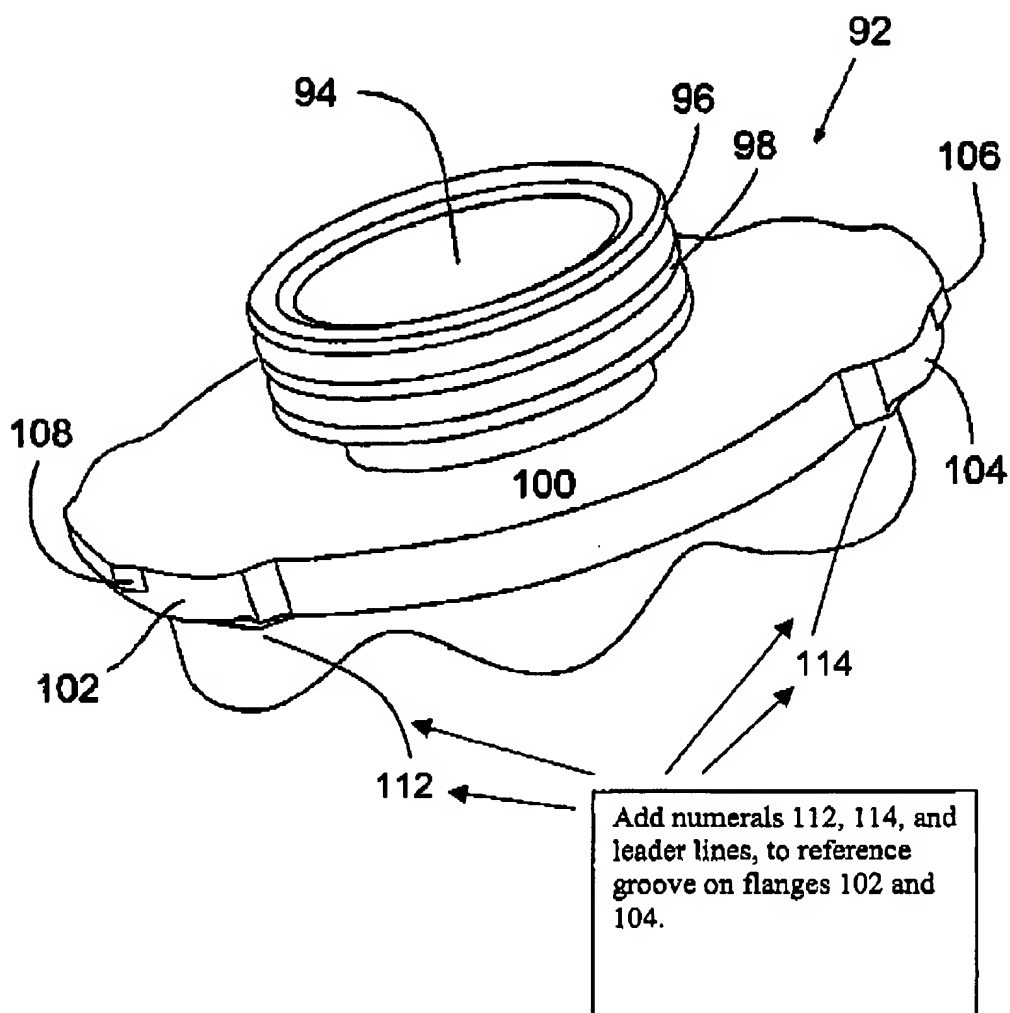


Figure 10

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Amdt., FIG. 11, Dated August 10, 2006
 Reply to Office Action of May 10, 2006
Annotated Sheet to Show Changes

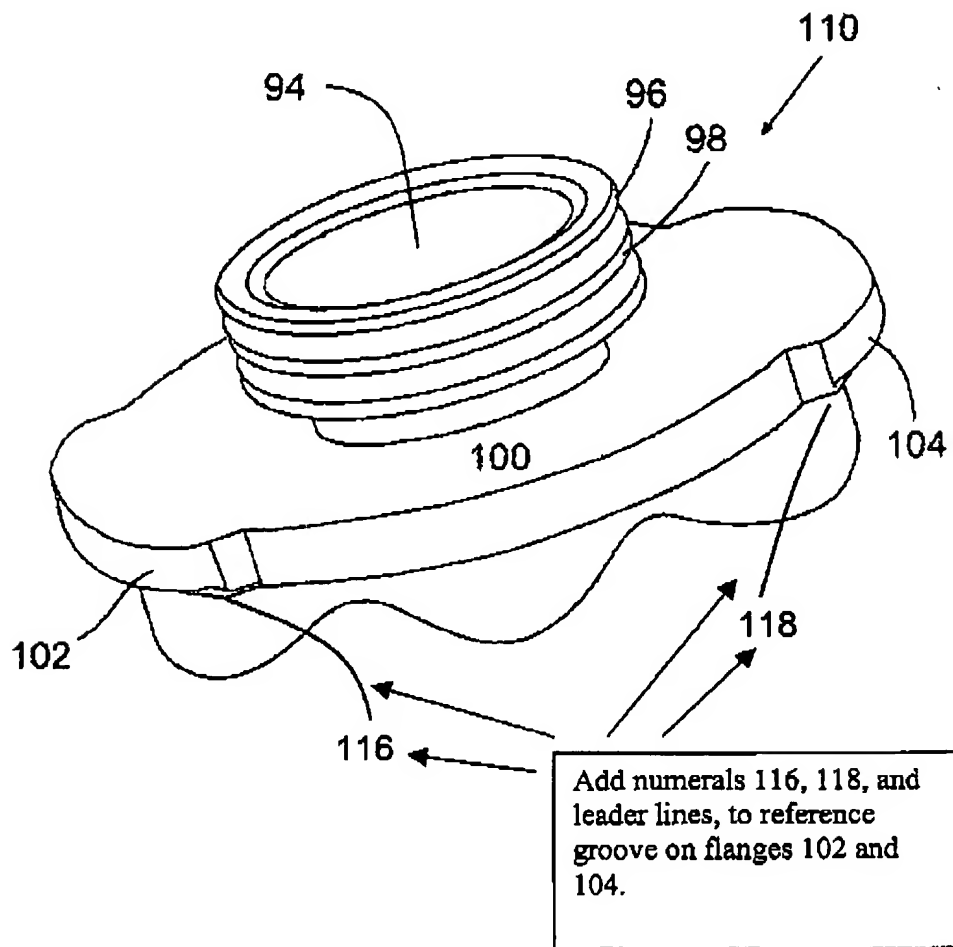


Figure 11